

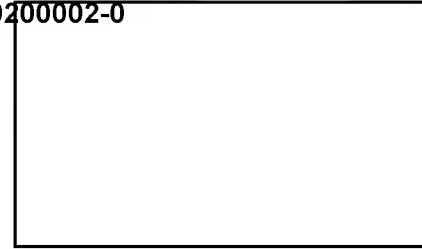


Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

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24 April 1979

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Contents

Briefs and Comments



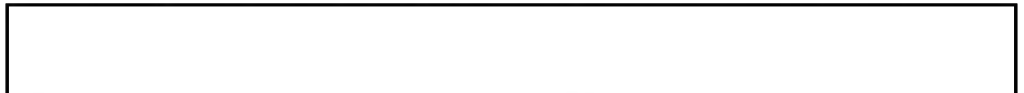
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Iran: *Fighting in the Northeast* 3



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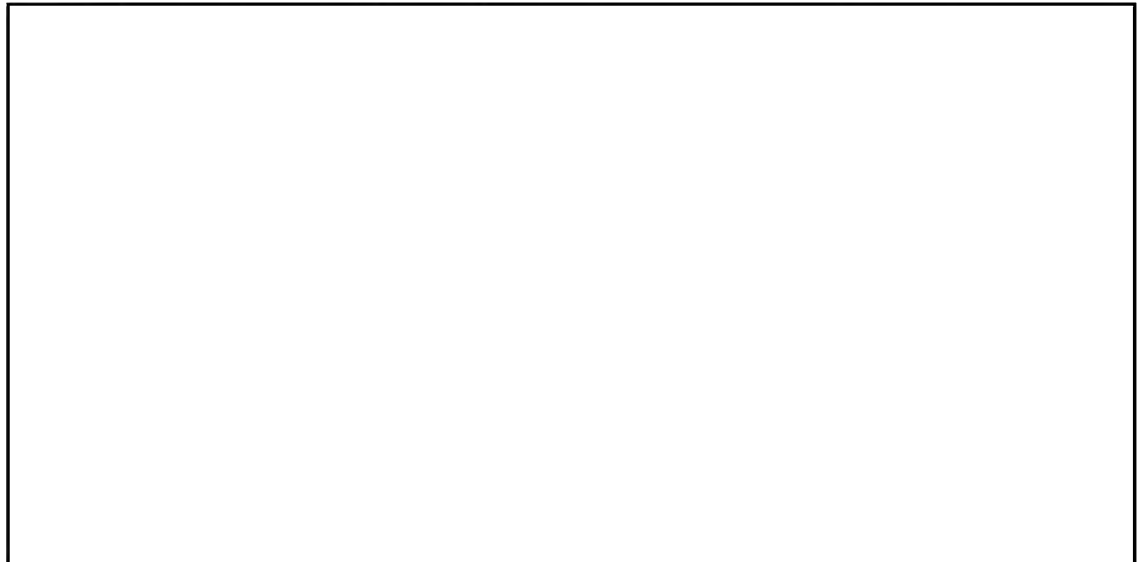
NATO: *Nuclear Planning Group Meeting* 6



25X1

Zaire: *Request for Airlift Assistance* 8

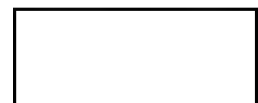
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Overnight Reports 17

The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the *Daily*, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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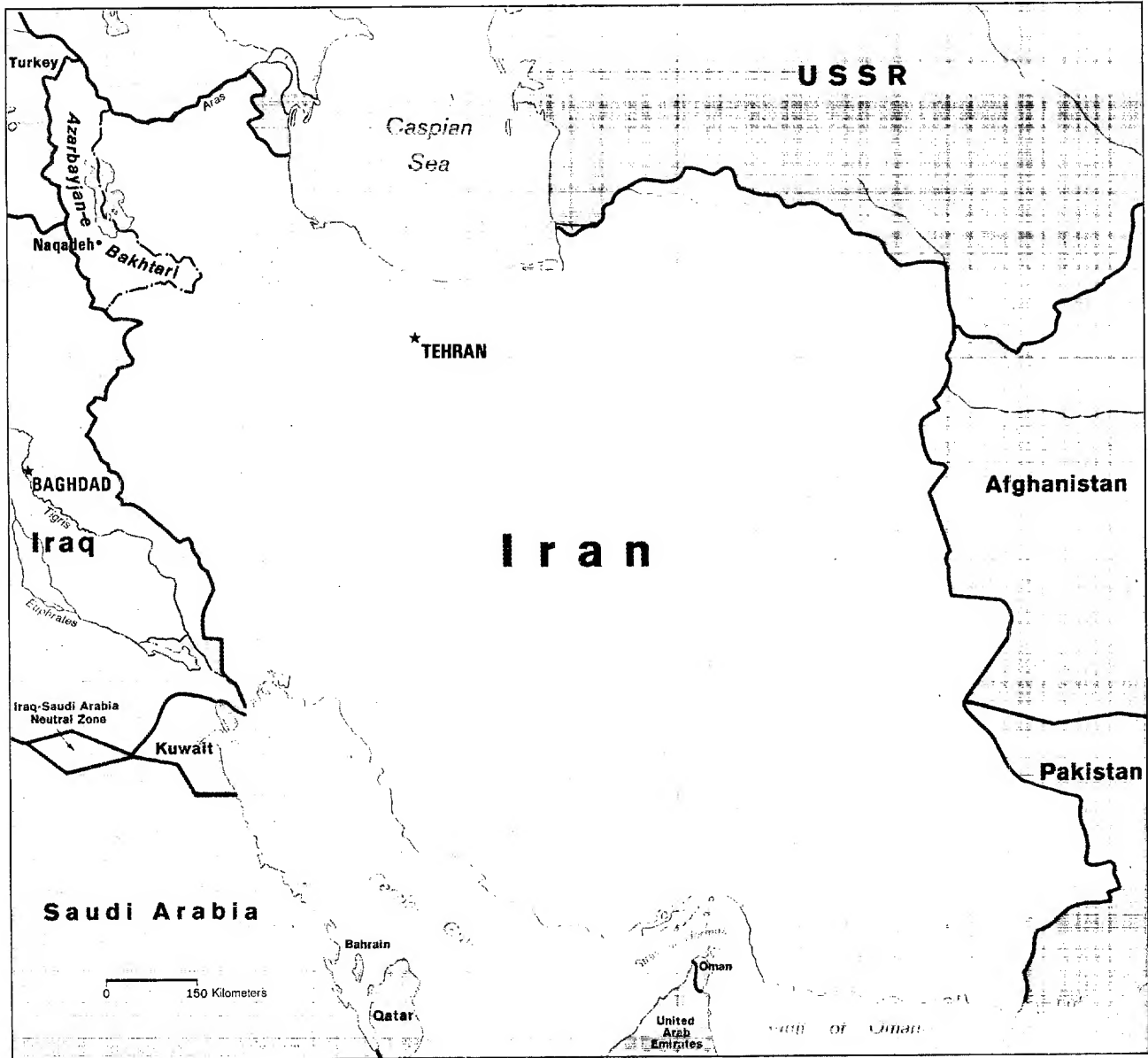
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IRAN: Fighting in the Northeast

The outbreak of internecine fighting in Iran's Azarbayjan-e Bakhtari Province is symptomatic of the general tension in the country. Again, a minor incident has touched off serious clashes between rival groups.

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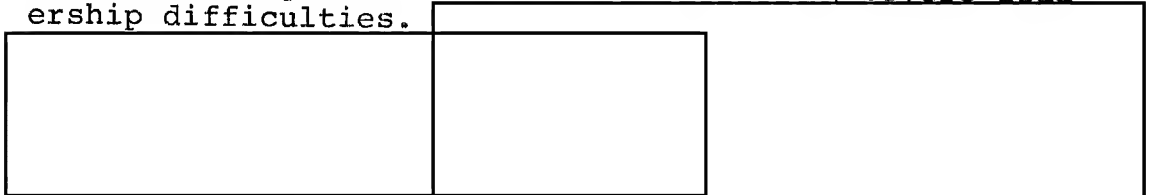


Press reports now indicate that Iranian troops have moved into the town of Naqadeh to quell fighting between local Kurds and Iranians of Turkish and Persian origin that began there and in the surrounding villages last weekend. The local leader of the Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party told reporters that thousands of his tribesmen are converging on Naqadeh and that only mediation by Ayatollah Taleghani--who calmed an earlier Kurdish incident--will prevent "disaster."

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The new fighting illustrates once again the central government's difficulties in dealing with civil disturbances. It cannot meet all the dissidents' political and economic demands, and is not willing--and may not be able--to put them down by force. Since the revolution, the armed forces have been demoralized; most units are at half strength or less and are suffering severe leadership difficulties.

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NATO: Nuclear Planning Group Meeting

The NATO Nuclear Planning Group meets today and tomorrow in Florida to launch the Alliance's effort to modernize its long-range theater nuclear forces. Defense ministers from the US, the UK, West Germany, Italy, Canada, Norway, Turkey, and the Netherlands will also discuss SALT and a Dutch proposal for changing that group's rotational membership.

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The defense ministers, working from a report by NATO's High Level Group, will attempt to establish priorities in order to reach decisions on theater nuclear forces by the end of the year. The ministers will try to articulate a political rationale that is compatible with existing NATO strategy. They will also discuss alternatives to permanent basing of theater nuclear forces on the continent, a matter of concern to the West European allies that face public skepticism about future nuclear deployments. West Germany, which would be a major site for any systems deployed on the European mainland, has made its support conditional on the willingness of other continental allies to accept such weapons on their territories. Many of the other allies are reluctant to agree to have a new generation of long-range theater nuclear forces in their countries or to pay for them.

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The Nuclear Planning Group will probably endorse the High Level Group's report and support US efforts to obtain a SALT II agreement, but it may be difficult to move much beyond these decisions. Belgium, Denmark, and Greece--which are not now participating in the Nuclear Planning Group--have said they will not be bound by commitments on theater nuclear forces made in their absence. A majority of the allies--including West Germany--favors the Dutch proposal to provide permanent seats for all members. They believe that unless the principle of rotation is abolished, progress on long-range theater nuclear force modernization and other related issues could be seriously impaired.

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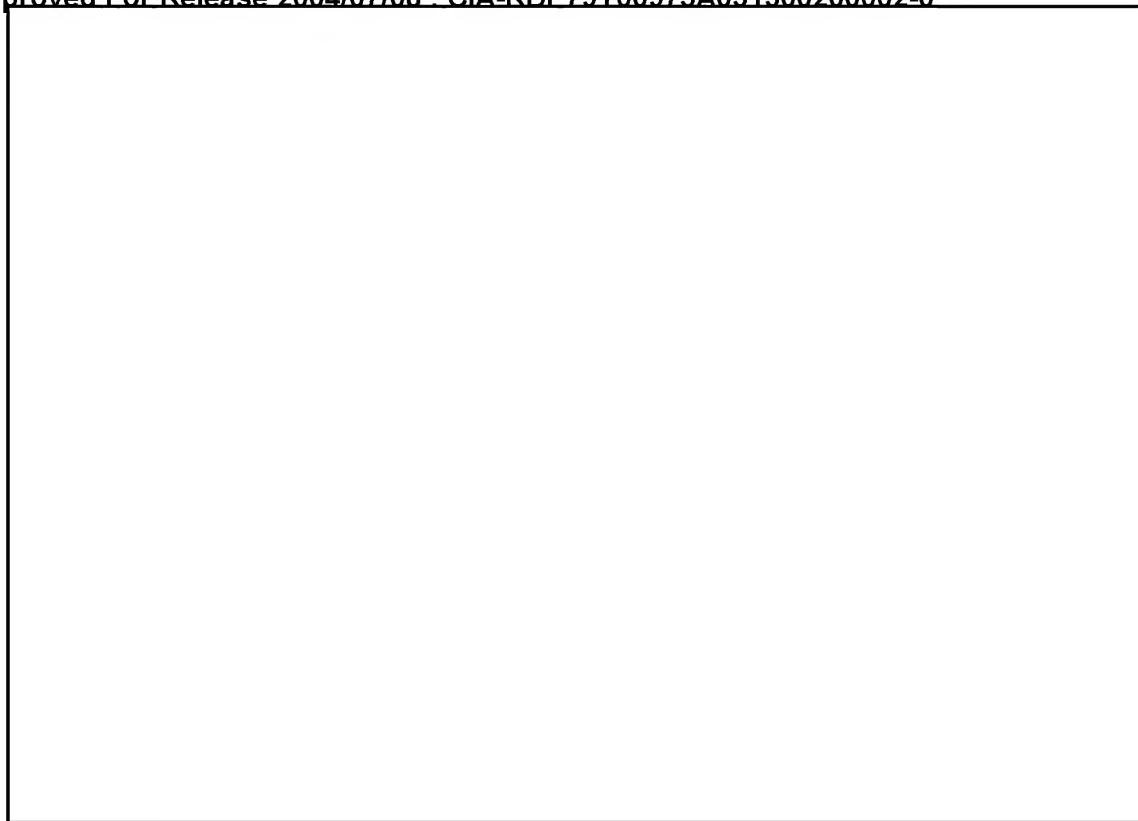
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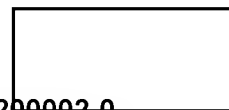
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ZAIRE: Request for Airlift Assistance

Zairian President Mobutu has requested US airlift support to return soldiers of the Inter-African Force from Shaba Region to their home countries and to transport Zairian units and their French and Belgian advisers to Shaba. The airlifts would take place over a three-month period beginning in July. Plans for a withdrawal of the force apparently have been worked out by the Zairians and the Moroccan commander but have not yet been approved by King Hassan, the French, or the Belgians. Regardless of the final plans for the force's withdrawal from Shaba, France and Belgium are also likely to press the US to provide airlift assistance. 

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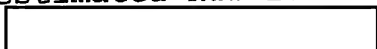


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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

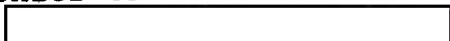
(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Middle East

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait yesterday broke diplomatic relations with Egypt, but neither statement mentioned economic relations with Cairo. A Western wire service report asserted that Kuwait had also broken economic relations with Egypt, but US Ambassador to Kuwait Maestrone reports today that Kuwait's principal official on that subject has categorically denied any such action or even intention by his government. He estimated Kuwait's total assets in Egypt at \$725 million. 

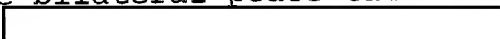
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Iran

According to late press reports, a man in a military uniform today made an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Bazargan and some members of his cabinet as they walked in the funeral procession for General Gharani, the armed forces' chief of staff who was killed by three gunmen yesterday. 

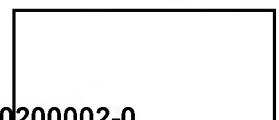
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Vietnam-China

A Western news service, quoting a reliable Vietnamese source in Hanoi today, reports that the second session of the bilateral peace talks will be held there on Thursday. 

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Pakistan

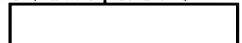
The US Consulate in Lahore has reported that rural-based religious and student leaders of the Shia sect have threatened a mass movement if President Zia-ul-Haq does not respond favorably by the end of this month to their protests against his proposal that Pakistan's legal system be based on the majority Hanafi Sunni interpretation of Islam. These Shia leaders also demanded that Ayatollah Khomeini be invited to make an official visit to Pakistan. The Consulate noted that many of the rural Shias were supporters of the late Prime Minister Bhutto and may welcome a chance to retaliate against Zia, who refused to spare his life. Should trouble materialize, Pakistan's martial law authorities could no doubt contain it, but the resulting tension would hardly help Zia politically nor aid in the establishment of an acceptable Islamic system in Pakistan.



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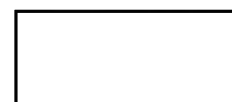
Australia-Turkey

The US Embassy in Canberra reports today that Australian officials have reiterated the government's reluctance to join a multilateral Western effort to provide economic assistance to Turkey. Australia's Treasury Department and Development Assistance Bureau are described as "adamantly opposed," while elements of the Foreign Ministry do support the concept of aiding Turkey. The Embassy comments that Australia believes it must give priority to regional assistance activities, although it does feel "exposed" as one of the few member-states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development not contributing to the assistance for Turkey.



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Bolivia-US

The US Embassy in La Paz reported yesterday Bolivia has requested that President Padilla be admitted to Walter Reed Army Hospital next week for a thorough physical checkup. The Embassy commented that he has contemplated such a trip to the US for many months but had been delaying it because of Bolivia's political turmoil as it prepares for a scheduled return to civilian rule in August. The 51-year-old Padilla is said to be suffering from exhaustion and a severe cold.

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Canada

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With national elections less than a month away, Prime Minister Trudeau's Liberal Party yesterday was voted out of office in Prince Edward Island, the only province where the Liberals had been in power. Their principal nationwide opposition, the Progressive Conservatives, easily won control of the Prince Edward Island legislature. A cable filed yesterday by the US Consulate in Quebec indicates, however, that the Liberals may recoup some of their prestige in two provincial by-elections next Monday. Claude Ryan, the Liberals' new leader in Quebec, is said to be well ahead in one contest, and the Consulate believes the Liberals will score a narrow victory in the other despite the almost constant campaigning by leaders of the Parti Quebecois there. A defeat for the PQ after such a major commitment could tarnish its self-projected image as the invincible wave of the future in Quebec.


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